

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06095 131944Z  
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00  
MCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /090 W  
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R 131820Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION USUN NY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1619  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6095

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, UR  
SUBJ: SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL) -- SOVIET ATTITUDE IN 6TH  
COMMITTEE

SUMMARY. IN LAST WEEK OF SIXTH COMITE, SOVIETS BECAME  
EXTREMELY UNCOOPERATIVE. SOVIETS REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE TOWARD  
CONSENSUS ON OWN ITEM AND INTERFERED WITH CONSENSUS ON OTHER  
ITEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG FORMALLY INTRODUCED HOSTAGES RESOLUTION ON DEC 9,  
ANTICIPATING QUICK ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS. AFTER SUBMISSION,  
LIBYA FORMALLY WITHDREW ITS AMENDMENTS AND INDICATED SUPPORT  
FOR RESOLUTION, CLEARING WAY FOR CONSENSUS. WHEN CHAIRMAN  
PROCEEDED ASK ADOPTION BY CONESNSUS, SOVIETS ASKED FOR 24  
HOURS, UNDER RULE 120, TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION. IT SHOULD BE  
NOTED ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION, WHICH IS SIMILAR, HAD  
BEEN AVAILABLE FOR WEEKS AND COMPROMISE LANGAUGE WAS AVAILABLE  
FOR SEVERAL DAYS. ON DEC 10, SOVIETS JOINED CONSENSUS ON  
ITEM. REASON FOR SOVIET DELAY IS UNCLEAR. IT WAS ESPECIALLY  
TROUBLESOM AS IT FORCED VOTING ON HOSTAGES AND TERRORISM  
RESOLUTIONS ON SAME DAY. WHILE US AND REST OF WEST SOUGHT  
CONSENSUS ON HOSTAGES ITEM, US AND OTHER VOTED NO OR  
ABSTAINED ON TERRORISM. SOVIETS MAY HAVE BEEN SEEKING  
UNDERMINE HOSTAGES ITEM OR SIMPLY POINT OUT UNWILLINGNESS OF  
WEST TO COMPROMISE ON ITEM OF IMPORTANCE TO ARABS AND  
AFRICANS AFTER THEY COMPROMISED ON ITEM OF IMPORTANCE TO US.

2. SOVIETS WERE UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON THEIR ITEM ON  
VIENNA CONVENTION. WHEN APPROACHED BY DUTCH WITH SUGGESTIONS  
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PAGE 02 USUN N 06095 131944Z

THAT WOULD PRODUCE CONSENSUS, TOLD DUTCH THEY HAD 86 VOTES

AND NO DESIRE NEGOTIATE. ITEM IS A RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT ONE, AND GROUNDS EXISTED FOR COMPROMISE AND CONSENSUS.

3. SOVIETS WERE ALSO VERY DIFFICULT ON HOST COUNTRY ITEM. SOVIETS ARE MEMBERS OF HOST COUNTRY COMITE WHICH ADOPTED, BY CONSENSUS, A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS. RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ADOPTED AFTER WEEKS OF DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WHEN ITEM BEGUN IN SIXTH COMITE, SOVIETS INFORMED UK THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT RESOLUTION INCORPORATING HOST COUNTRY COMITE RECOMMENDATIONS. SOVIETS (THROUGH UKRAINE) TABLED A RESOLUTION (A/C.6/31/L.20) THAT SELECTIVELY INCORPORATES HOST COUNTRY COMITE RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING--AND IN SOME CASES WORSENING--UNFAVORABLE LANGUAGE AND OMITTING THE FEW COMPLIMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS. THE UK SUBMITTED A COMPETING DRAFT THAT FOLLOWS CLOSELY THE COMITE RECOMMENDATIONS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL A.M. OF DEC 10 THAT COMPROMISE TEXT REACHED.

4. REASON FOR SOVIET ATTITUDE IS UNCLEAR, BUT MAY BE A REACTION TO SCRANTON SPEECH ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIRD COMITE THOUGH WHY THEY SHOULD TAKE IT OUT ON FRG HOSTAGE ITEM IS NOT CLEAR. ON OTHER HAND, UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE DID NOT SURFACE IN SIXTH COMITE UNTIL SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER STATEMENT. ATTITUDE MIGHT ALSO BE RESULT OF INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES IN SOVIET POLITICAL-LEGAL HIERARCHY IN DELEGATION OR IN MOSCOW.  
SCRANTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL) -- SOVIET ATTITUDE IN 6TH COMMITTEE SUMMARY. IN LAST WEEK OF SIXTH COMITE, SOVIETS BEC  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, UNGA  
**To:** STATE  
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